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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC22-20-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-740); Comment Request;
Extension

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved information collection, FERC-740 (Availability of E-Tag Information to Commission Staff), which will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for a review of the information collection requirements.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments on FERC-740 to OMB through www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. Please identify the OMB control number (1902-0254) in the subject line. Your comments should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice in the Federal Register.

Please submit copies of your comments (identified by Docket No. IC22-20-000) to the Commission as noted below. Electronic filing through <https://www.ferc.gov> is preferred.

- **Electronic Filing:** Documents must be filed in acceptable native applications and print-to-PDF, but not in scanned or picture format.

- For those unable to file electronically, comments may be filed by USPS mail or by hand (including courier) delivery.
 - Mail via U.S. Postal Service Only: Addressed to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20426.
 - Hand (including courier) delivery: Deliver to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

Instructions:

OMB submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Using the search function under the “Currently Under Review field,” select Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; click “submit” and select “comment” to the right of the subject collection.

FERC submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at <https://www.ferc.gov>. For user assistance, contact FERC Online Support by e-mail at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov, or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free).

Docket: Users interested in receiving automatic notification of activity in this docket or in viewing/downloading comments and issuances in this docket may do so at <https://www.ferc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Ellen Brown may be reached by e-mail at DataClearance@FERC.gov and telephone at (202) 502-8663.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC-740, Availability of E-Tag Information to Commission Staff

OMB Control No.: 1902-0254

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-740 information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: This collection of information is authorized by 18 CFR 366.2(d), which requires Commission access, on a non-public and view-only basis, to information that is located on “electronic tags,” also known as “e-Tags.” Each e-Tag consists of an electronic record of a transaction to transfer energy from a generation source to a Balancing Authority (BA). Each BA operates a portion of the grid, balancing supply and demand and assuring compliance with federal reliability standards. E-Tag “authors” are typically Purchasing-Selling Entities (PSEs). A PSE purchases or sells energy, capacity, and Interconnected Operations Services.

Transmission system operators, which are among the addressees of e-Tags, use e-Tags to ascertain the transactions affecting their local systems, and to prevent damage to the power grid. Commission access to e-Tags helps the Commission detect and prevent market manipulation and anti-competitive behavior, and monitor the efficiency of markets. Both transmission system operators and the Commission need the e-Tag information to understand the use of the interconnected electricity grid, particularly transactions occurring at interchanges. Due to the nature of the electric grid, an individual transaction’s impact on an interchange cannot be assessed adequately in all cases without information from all connected systems, which is included in the e-Tags. The inclusion of the Commission is completely automatic and is part of the normal business requirement. Thus, the time, effort, and financial resources necessary to comply with this collection of information are “usual and customary” within the meaning of the OMB regulation at 5 CFR 1320.3(b)(2) (excluding such activities from the definition of “burden”). In view of these circumstances, FERC is including only a “placeholder”

burden of one hour to account for the rare event where a new BA qualifies for exemption under the Commission’s regulations (e.g., transmissions from a new non-U.S. BA into another non-U.S. BA using a path that does not go through a U.S. BA). In that case, this administrative function would be expected to require at most an hour of effort total from both the BA and e-Tag administrator to include the BA on the exemption list. New exempt BAs are not common—years may pass between them—but for the purpose of estimation, we will conservatively assume one appears each year creating a burden and cost associated with the Commission’s FERC-740 of one hour and \$36.90.

Type of Respondents: Purchasing-Selling Entities and Balancing Authorities

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*¹ The Commission estimates the burden and cost for FERC-740 as follows based on the distinct e-Tags submitted to the Commission in 2021 (the most recent full year available).

The estimated hourly cost (wages plus benefits) provided in this section is based on the figures for May 2021 posted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Utilities sector (available at https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm),

assuming:

- 15 minutes legal (code 23-0000), at \$73.09/hour median hourly wage; and
- 45 minutes information and record clerk (code 43-4199), at \$24.84/hour median hourly wage.

¹ “Burden” is the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. For further explanation of what is included in the information collection burden, refer to 5 CFR Part 1320.

The overall hourly cost is \$36.90 (i.e., 15 minutes / 60 minutes) * \$73.09/hour median hourly wage for legal + 45 minutes / 60 minutes) * \$24.84/hour median hourly wage for information and record clerk.

A. Number of Respondents	B. Annual Number of Responses (E-Tags) per Respondent	C. Total Number of Responses (Column A x Column B)	D. Average Burden & Cost Per Response	E. Total Annual Burden Hours & Total Annual Cost (Column C x Column D)	F. Cost per Respondent (\$) (Column E ÷ Column A)
435 PSE/BAs	3,403 E-Tags	1,480,305 E- Tags	Automatic, so 0 burden and cost	Automatic, so 0 burden and cost	Automatic, so 0 burden and cost
1 E-Tag administrator	1 response to add new non- jurisdictional Balancing Authority	1 response to add new non- jurisdictional Balancing Authority	1 hr.; \$36.90	1 hr.; \$36.90	\$36.90
Totals	3,404	1,480,306	1 hr.; \$36.90	1 hr.; \$36.90	\$36.90

Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: September 20, 2022.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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